

09/893,941

MS171138.02/MSFTP220USAREMARKS

Claims 1-50 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Amendments to the specification are found at pages 2-3. A version of the claims is found at pages 4-13. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-38, 42, 44-46, and 49-50 have been amended herein. Claims 2-5, 8, 10-35, 42, and 44-46 have been amended herein to further emphasize various novel aspects. Additionally, claims 6, 7, 41, 47, and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants' representative acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner indicating that claims 7-9 would be allowable if recast in independent form. Additionally, applicants' representative appreciates the courtesies extended during the teleconference on July 26, 2004. Pursuant to the conversation, independent claims 1, 36, 37, 38, 49, and 50 are amended herein to recite the limitations of claim 7. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Objection to the Abstract

The abstract stands objected to under MPEP §608.01(f) for failing to be a single paragraph of 150 words or less commencing on a separate sheet following the claims. It is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. The abstract has been amended herein to be one paragraph with less than 150 words, and thus, this objection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of claims 47, 48, and 50 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 47, 48, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claims 47 and 48 have been cancelled herein and claim 50 has been amended to correct a minor informality concerning antecedent basis; therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

09/893,941MS171138.02/MSFTP220USA**III. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 10-16, and 19-50 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

Claims 1-3, 10-16, and 19-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aronson *et al.* (U.S. 6,654,787 B1). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Independent claims 1, 36, 37, 38, 49, and 50 have been amended herein to recite the limitations of claim 7, which was indicated as being allowable in the Office Action dated June 3, 2004. (See pg. 14). In particular, the Office Action states that “the prior art of record fails to teach for [sic] fairly suggest where the information concerning personalizing the second classifier comprises information related to at least one of the amount of adapting data required before a confidence level is associated with the personalized classifier and the coverage of adapting data required before a confidence level is associated with the personalized classifier.” (See Office Action, pg. 14). The identified aspects were recited in claim 7, and independent claims 1, 36, 37, 38, 49, and 50 have been amended herein to recite these limitations. In view of the herein amendments and the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action, it is believed that independent claims 1, 36, 37, 38, 49, and 50 are allowable.

In view of at least the above, Aronson *et al.* does not anticipate or suggest the subject invention as recited in claims 1, 36, 37, 38, 49, and 50 (and claims 2, 3, 10-16, 19-35, and 39-48 which respectively depend there from). Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 4-6 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronson *et al.* (U.S. 6,654,787 B1) in view of Gross *et al.* (U.S. 5,283,856). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for the following reasons. Aronson *et al.* and Gross *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the subject claims. In particular, Gross *et al.* fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Aronson *et al.* with respect to amended independent claim 1 (which claims 4-5 depend from). Additionally, the limitations of claim 6 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and claim 6 has been cancelled. Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claims 4-6 is not obvious over the

09/893,941

MS171138.02/MSFTP220USA

combination of Aronson *et al.* and Gross *et al.* Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. **Rejection of Claims 17-18 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronson *et al.* (U.S. 6,654,787 B1) in view of Androutsopoulos *et al.* ("An Experimental Comparison of Naïve Bayesian and Keyword-Based Anti-Spam Filtering with Personal E-mail Messages"). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for the following reasons. Aronson *et al.* and Androutsopoulos *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the subject claims. In particular, Androutsopoulos *et al.* does not to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Aronson *et al.* with respect to amended independent claim 1 (which claims 17-18 depend from). Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claims 17-18 is not obvious over the combination of Aronson *et al.* and Androutsopoulos *et al.* Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

09/893,941MS171138.02/MSFTP220USA**CONCLUSION**

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above amendments and comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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